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# Guardian East

Volume 9, Issue 2

June 25, 2003



**Alpha  
Company,  
82nd Engineers'  
Exemplary  
Combat Medic**  
*Page 28*

# MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS

## Dear American Soldiers *Happy Birthday to America's Army*

By Air Force Lt. Col. Sandy Domingos  
Defense Contracting Agency

At 228 years old, America's Army is the greatest army in the world and I'm very honored to serve with you here at Camp Bondsteel.

If it had not been for fate, I too, could have been a proud soldier. Ironically, it was a June day. I can't recall the exact date (4/5 June) that I stepped into the recruiter's office specifically to see the Army recruiter. He was out, so the Air Force recruiter said "I can talk to you" as I exited the building. As they say, the rest is history. I became an airman. But I know within me is a soldier, because the Air Force started out as the Army Air Corps.

What is it that makes the U.S. Army great? It's not the weaponry or all the sophisticated equipment in its arsenal. It's the spirit of being American and defending all the things we cherish such as freedom of speech, freedom to vote, lots of liberties, and the ability to make something great of ourselves that the Army allows and promotes.

Today, I join you in celebrating this historic date and remember with you every battle that our great Army has gallantly been involved in, from the Spanish American War to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

So to you my Army brethren, I proudly "sing" your song today:

*First to fight for the right,  
And to build the Nation's might  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.*

*Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!  
The Army's on its way.  
Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO!  
THREE!)  
For where e'er we go,  
You will always know  
That the Army Goes Rolling Along.*



Air Force Lt. Col. Sandy Domingos

*Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,  
San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks,  
And the Army went rolling along  
Minutemen, from the start,  
Always fighting from the heart,  
And the Army keeps rolling along.*

*Men in rags, men who froze,  
Still that Army met its foes,  
And the Army went rolling along.  
Faith in God, then we're right,  
And we'll fight with all our might,  
As the Army keeps rolling along.  
HOOAH!!*

**SOLDIERS GRIEVE, REMEMBER AND MOVE ON:** By Maj. Warren E. Kirby Jr., 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Aviation Chaplain - 4

**IN MEMORY OF:** Chief Warrant Officer Andrew D. Robbins and Warrant Officer Devon E. Desouza - 5

**POLUKRBAT UNITES KOSOVO CHILDREN:** Bringing Albanian, Serbian Children Together - 6

**NCO OF THE YEAR:** Staff Sgt. Marcus A. McClain - 9

**PRESENCE, PEACE IN GNJILANE:** 2-2 Infantry Scouts - 10

**ASIAN-PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE EVENT:** Celebrating Diversity, Saluting Liberty - 12

**MNB(E) PARALEGAL WINS ARMY-WIDE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:** Staff Sgt. Osvaldo Martinez - 14

**SOLDIERS HONOR FALLEN, CELEBRATE FUTURE FREEDOMS:** Memorial Day Ceremony - 15

**THE WALL REMADE:** Remembering Vietnam - 16

**1ST MP COMPANY:** Change of Command Ceremony - 17

**STRENGTH IN NUMBERS:** Economic Team Helps Local Businesses Connect - 18

**LIVE FIRE EXERCISE:** Prepares 82nd Engineers - 20

**RUSSIANS:** Bid Farewell to KFOR - 22

**TRAINED IN KALAMAZOO:** Tested in Kosovo - 23

**SPORTS WEEKEND PHOTO PAGES:** MWR Memorial Weekend Event - 24

**WHAT I DIDN'T DO ON MY SUMMER VACATION:** KFOR Mine Risk Education "Campaign Safe Summer" - 26

**COMBAT MEDIC GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL:** Spc. William Gonzalez - 28

**MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS:** Words of Wisdom from the Safety Manager - 30

**DRIVING SAFETY:** What to Look out for When Driving in Kosovo - 31

**SOCCER TOURNAMENT:** Offers Fun and Morale - 34

**LAND NAVIGATION:** Confidence Builder - 36

**COMPUTER SECURITY:** How to Keep Your Information Safe - 39

**FEMALE MP STRIVES TO BE ALL:** Spc. Rebecca Pennington - 40

**UNIDENTIFIABLE OBJECT:** Training Opportunity - 42

**HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR EARTH:** Recycling cans at Camp Bondsteel - 43

**SOLDIERS STRUT THEIR STUFF AT MUSCLE BEACH:** Moral Welfare and Recreation event May 17 - 44

**SOLDIER ON THE STREET:** What's the best advice your father gave you? - 45

**WON BY ONE:** Ridding Ferizaj of Unexploded Mines and Bomblets - 46

**SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY**  
[www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil)

Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to [guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil](mailto:guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil).

**COVER:** Combat Medic, Spc. William Gonzalez holds a red lens flashlight while teaching Spc. Brian Christianson, an Alpha Co. combat life saver, how to start a cathedar in a tactical, nighttime environment. Saw Gunner Pfc. John Calloway lends his arm as a training aid. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

SEE PAGE 28 FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

# Guardian East

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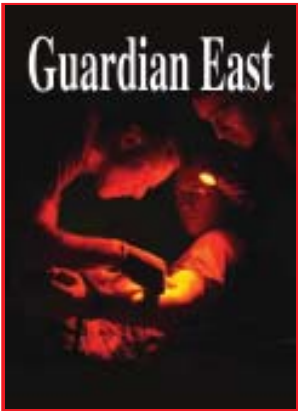
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## About Guardian East

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# *Soldiers Grieve, Remember, Move On*

By Maj. Warren E. Kirby Jr.  
4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Aviation Chaplain

**T**he normal duty day at Camp Bondsteel is very routine and often referred to as repetitious if not monotonous. However, to soldiers and civilians alike stationed at Camp Bondsteel, Sunday, June 8, 2003, will forever be remembered as something other than normal. Soldiers woke that morning to discover two fellow comrades in the first hour of morning's darkness had lost their lives in a tragic aviation accident. They were informed Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Robbins and Warrant Officer Devon DeSouza, stationed out of Katterbach, Germany, 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade, while serving in Kosovo as part of Task Force Dragon, had perished in a tragic helicopter accident in the performance of their duties.

To soldiers of Camp Bondsteel and particularly those in its aviation community the event seemed surreal. Almost immediately, regardless of unit designation, soldiers came offering to assist. Converging almost at once on the Aviation Task Force, each expressed a desire to help. Many did indeed assist. Whether in performing a task, providing guidance, or giving direction, many played a part in honoring our fallen comrades.

However, soldiers in Camp Bondsteel did not grieve alone. Back in Katterbach, Germany, soldiers there were also grieving. They too prepared ceremonies mirroring the Ramp and Memorial Ceremony conducted at Camp Bondsteel. While the soldiers in Kosovo and Germany were grieving there were also family members in the United States grieving their loss.

In a memorial service to honor their fallen and provide hope to the living, the commanders and chaplain took their turn at the podium. The Aviation Task Force Commander, Lt. Col. Samuel Ford began by stating, "we are about something bigger and larger than ourselves." He went on to say, "Chief Warrant Officer [Robbins] and Warrant Officer DeSouza understood this." In appreciation

and gratitude for the American presence in Kosovo many of its citizenry refer to Camp Bondsteel as the "City of Angels." When American soldiers arrived it signaled the end of death and destruction. With that in mind, Ford concluded, remarking, "they paid the ultimate sacrifice for the people of Kosovo and for the good of mankind. They are our heroes who lived and served in the City of Angels."

The Charlie Company Commander, Capt. E.J. Irvin, described both Robbins and DeSouza as "two consummate patriots." In a moving tribute he concluded with this battle hand off, "Ghostrider 31, Ghostrider 12, you are cleared to egress at this time, go weapons switches cold, proceed direct to Heaven. Dear God, Ghostrider 31 and Ghostrider 12 are in a single AH-64 (Apache Helicopter) entering your sector, they have all the fuel they need, short final for Heaven VIP Pad, watch over them I pray and keep them in your eternal grace, this is Ghostrider 06 out."

The Aviation Chaplain, Maj. Warren E. Kirby, challenged the soldiers of his unit and the entire Task Force by saying, "we are going to honor our fallen comrades by our grieving, by our remembering and by our continuing. Our flag for a moment may have dipped toward the ground. But it has not fallen. We who are left will honor our fallen comrades as we raise the guide-on high and move forward." The Chaplain encouraged soldiers to use this time to reflect on their own relationship with God and not to minimize the importance of their need to grieve, to always remember and to move on. He reminded soldiers that in a Christian Bible it says that even "Jesus wept" at the news that his friend had died.

At the ceremony's conclusion, amidst the grief, soldiers, commanders and even chaplains shuddered and wiped away tears as the names of their fallen comrades were heard echoed by the first sergeant as he conducted the last roll call and taps was played.

SEE ROBBINS AND DESOUZA BIOS ON PAGE 5

# In Memory Of:

## **Chief Warrant Officer Andrew D. Robbins**

*October 7, 1962 - June 8, 2003*

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Robbins was born October 7, 1962. He entered active Federal military service February 18, 1986, Fort Benning, Georgia, where he completed Basic and Advanced Individual Training. He was then assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Robbins then reported to Fort Rucker, Alabama for Warrant Officer Candidate School. His next assignment was as an attack helicopter pilot at Fort Polk, Louisiana. In 1996, he moved to Camp Page, Korea, where he served as an Instructor Pilot for Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion. After Korea, Robbins served as both an Instructor Pilot and the Company Standardization Officer at Fort Hood, Texas. In 2001, Robbins reported to Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion, Katterbach, Germany, where he served as both an Instructor Pilot and the Company Standardization Officer.

During his three years with Charlie Company, Robbins participated in numerous Combat Maneuver Training Center rotations, gunneries at Grafenwoehr, Victory Strike II in Poland, Agile Dragon in Hungary, and KFOR 4B.

Robbins' awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Senior Aviator Badge, NATO Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Army Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Robbins is survived by his wife, Cheryl, his son, Michael, his daughter, Alyssa, and his parents, Murray and Bertha Robbins.

## **Warrant Officer Devon E. Desouza**

*August 23, 1973 - June 8, 2003*

Warrant Officer Devon E. Desouza was born August 23, 1973. He entered active Federal military service May 5, 1993, and completed the Marine Basic Course at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. His first assignment was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan. Following that assignment, Desouza served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. Desouza then served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Service Support Group, Albany, Georgia. After transitioning to the United States Army and completing the Warrant Officer Candidate School, Desouza attended the AH-64 Combat Aviator Qualification Course, Ft. Rucker, Alabama. April 7, 2003, Desouza reported to Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion, Katterbach, Germany.

During his time with Charlie Company, Desouza participated in KFOR 4B as a copilot-gunner in the AH-64.

Desouza's awards include two U.S. Navy Achievement Medals, the U.S. Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, two U.S. Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Aviator Badge.

Desouza is survived by his wife, Andrea, his son, Devon, and his parents, Easton and Elsaïda Desouza.

**Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, escort their fallen fellow soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer Andrew**

**Robbins and Warrant Officer Devon DeSouza, down the flightline in the ramp ceremony June 9, 2003. Photo by Maj. Hillary A. Luton.**







Polish Lance Cpl. Rafal Kozlowski serves water to two Kosovo children. Kozlowski spent the morning and afternoon of June 1 assisting with the POLUKRBAT's Children's Festival. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.

# POLUKRBAT Unites Kosovo Children

By Spc. Christina E. Witten

**C**AMP WHITE EAGLE, Kosovo – The steady hum of children's chatter filled the air as the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion soldiers of the Multi-National Brigade (East) kicked off a celebration for 32 local Albanian and Serbian children in recognition of International Children's Day, June 1.

The event was inspired, in part, by POLUKRBAT activities in zones with little community integration occurring, said Polish Capt. Rafal Puchala, POLUKRBAT Chief of Civil Affairs.

"We speak a lot with teachers in schools and

Polish Lance Cpl. Grzegorz Piecuch, a soldier with the POLUKRBAT, helps a Kosovo boy balance an egg on a spoon during a relay event, one of three games set up for Albanian and Serbian children at the POLUKRBAT's Children's Festival June 1. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.







**Polish interpreter, Selejdin Ismaili, helps a young Kosovo girl in the beanbag toss, one of three games set up for Serbian and Albanian children at the POLUKRBAT's Children's Festival June 1. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.**

hear of the problems,” said Puchala. “The main problem is Serbian and Albanian populations don’t understand each other. The play between children is the best way to learn to understand one another,” Puchala added.

Through coordination with the directors of the schools in the villages of Straza and Vicia, POLUKRBAT civil affairs was

able to arrange an enjoyable and certainly memorable event for the children of Vicia and Straza.

When asked if they had fun at the festival, both Slobodan Stanistic, an 11-year-old Serbian boy from Vicia, and Resul Lika, a 9-year-old Albanian boy from Straza, remarked with a smile, “Yes.”

“It’s beautiful,” Stanistic

added, referring to Serbian and Albanian children playing together.

Not only was the experience pleasurable for the children, but it also brought joy to the hearts of the soldiers. Lance Cpl. Rafal Kozlowski, a POLUKRBAT infantryman was one of the soldiers helping with festival activi-

**SEE *POLUKRBAT* ON PAGE 8**

FROM PAGE 7

## POLUKRBAT

ties.

“It is nice to see the smile on [the children’s] faces and to forget about the problems here,” said Kozlowski.

The festival began with a snack and the opportunity for the Serbian and Albanian children to interact with one another. The snack was followed by a beanbag toss, a bowling activity and a relay. Between contests, the children

took a short break and enjoyed another snack. After the final game was played, the children ate lunch prepared by the POLUKRBAT.

While everyone was finishing their meal, some of the POLUKRBAT soldiers energized the atmosphere with live music.

The Albanian and Serbian children, as well as the POLUKRBAT soldiers, played games together and mingled with one another.

To close the festival, a group photograph was taken and every



**Polish Sgt. Slawdmir Wloka, a soldier with the POLUKRBAT, plays music for the Kosovo children at the POLUKRBAT's Children's Festival June 1. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.**



**A local Kosovo girl smiles after receiving two gift bags and a certificate handed to her by Polish Capt. Rafal Puchala for her participation in the POLUKRBAT Children's Festival June 1. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.**

child received a certificate for their participation in the event along with two gift bags. Copies of the photograph will be made and distributed in Straza and Vicia for the children to keep as mementos.

The day began with occasional looks of reluctance in the children, but as the event came to a close, all around were faces full of excitement, accomplishment and happiness.

“We are satisfied. This is what we want to achieve,” stated Capt. Robert Zmarzlinski, the POLUKRBAT liaison officer, after viewing the finale of the festival.

“The children are the future of this province,” Puchala said, summing up the principle behind the event.”

And let the children be a lesson to us all. Getting to know another reveals a truth our eyes never before had seen.



# NCO of the Year

By Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

**S**taff Sgt. Marcus A. McClain, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Sergeant for Charlie Company, 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineer

Battalion, won the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year competition in April.

McClain was recommended to represent Task Force Falcon by

Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Gioia, Multi-National Brigade (East) command sergeant major. He considered the NCO Corps lucky to have an NCO of McClain's caliber.

The recommendation came shortly after McClain went in front of the board for induction into the Sgt. Morales Club. Only NCO's who demonstrate outstanding leadership are given the opportunity to go in front of the Morales board, which consists of a panel of judges who examine an individual's appearance, discipline, and knowledge.

"After studying for that I was pretty well prepared," said McClain. He had to be.

McClain was given just two days notice to prepare for the 1<sup>st</sup> ID NCO of the Year competition.

"The competition is a culmination of all your soldier skills," he said. "I accepted the chance to go and did my best. There was actually no pressure, no sweat, and I actually had a good time."

McClain faced off against 12 other NCO's from across the 1<sup>st</sup> ID at Camp "Rob," Germany, April 27 to determine who was the best of the best. The five-day event covered all aspects of soldier training, both mental and physical.

This included land navigation, common task testing, a written exam, an Army physical fitness test, a ruck march, weapons qualification, and another board.

McClain has been in the Army for six years and plans on remaining until retirement. He has a wife, Michaela, and two sons, Danny and Justin, and comes from Cambridge City, Indiana.

**Staff Sgt. Marcus A. McClain, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Sergeant for Charlie Company, 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.**



# Presence, Peace in Gnjilane

By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

The streets of Gnjilane once again bustle with traffic and pedestrians throughout the day. The people here no longer live in fear of walking down the city streets.

This is due, in part, to patrols being conducted by units like the 2-2 Infantry Scouts who were once again on patrol through the town May 20.

“We’re on presence patrol, letting these people know we’re here and maintaining security,” stated Spc. Kris Van Beveren.

Van Beveren said the patrols are necessary.

“That’s our main goal down here, to keep the peace.”

Strolling down the streets, the scouts watched the civilian population as they went about their daily activities at the market. This market looked like any flea market one might see in the United States.

Rows of canopy covered booths spread dress-right-dress over an open field offered shade from the hot morning sun and served as marketing platforms for a variety of wares.

Everything one could think of could be found at the market. Clothing patterned after U.S. styles, food, toys, and tools were just some of the products offered there.

As they passed the half-built houses in which people live and the ongoing construction of the recovering city, Van Beveren talks about “how much (he) appreciates America, how much other countries strive to be like us but can’t because they’re poor. It feels good to be able to help people out and

keep them safe; mainly the little kids, because they don’t know what’s going on.”

Mission squad leader, Staff Sgt. Kyle Sessoms, said of the mission, “We haven’t heard of anything or seen anything for a while, and we’re trying to keep it that way.

“We’re trying to set the example for them,” Sessoms

continued. “We’re trying to point them to local police when they have a problem. Sooner or later we are going to leave. If they keep turning to us to do everything, when we leave, they’re not going to have anybody to do it. But if they know ‘KFOR is telling us to go to (Kosovo Police Service)’ when we leave, they know ‘KFOR isn’t here, but we went to KPS



**Pvt. Joshua Casias takes the point position while leading a squad of scouts through the streets of Gnjilane May 20 as they make their way to an open-air market. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**



every time anyway, so we'll just go talk to them about it.”

Sgt. Brandon Kitts, on his third tour in Kosovo, has seen the area progress from times when the people here were still fighting.

“The first time (I was here) there was a lot more stuff going on in the country. There were a lot of things you had to watch. It just wasn't as safe an environment as it is this time.”

Kitts talked about Gnjilane's growth since his first tour in the Balkans. “This place has built up considerably since we've been here. It's incredible to see how much it's actually grown since I was here the first time.”

**Members of 2-2 Infantry's Scout Platoon walk among students of a local school while on presence patrol in Gnjilane May 20. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**



**Staff Sgt. Kyle Sessoms (Left) and Sgt. Brandon Kitts of 2-2 Infantry Scouts, lead their soldiers through the bustling streets of Gnjilane while conducting patrol operations May 20. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**



With music flowing from local eating and drinking establishments and cars humming as they passed on the narrow city streets, the group continued through the streets.

According to Kitts, the people seem to welcome the soldiers on patrol through the streets.

Pvt. Joshua Casias is motivated to be getting ready to go home despite the good times he has had in Kosovo.

“We have to come out here and do a transfer of authority to the Kosovar Police,” he said. “We're trying to get them to be able to rebuild and live together. If they can actually learn to live in the country together, it's all worth it to me.”

Quick Reaction Force Interpreter Kajoli Mehemet spoke with local citizen Xhebdet Durmishi who said that the KFOR patrols were welcome.

“We have a good opinion of KFOR, the situation is good here,” said Durmishi. Before them, we had a bad situation. We feel free now!”

# Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Event Celebrates Diversity, Salutes Liberty

Col. Thomas Kim, a radiologist with Task Force Med Falcon, teaches about Korean culture, history, food and dress at the Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month celebration May 30 at Camp Bondsteel. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.





## By Spc. Heidi Schaap

Over 75 service members and civilians from several ethnic backgrounds met together at the South Gym on Camp Bondsteel May 30 to celebrate National Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month.

The event, sponsored by the Task Force Falcon Equal Opportunity Office, was put on to both honor the accomplishments and history of Asian and Pacific-Americans and heighten awareness about Asian culture.

“A lot of people, when we asked them to help out with this event, said ‘But I’m not Asian’,” stated Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Benjamin Pernol, the Task Force Falcon Equal Opportunity Advisor. “But the whole idea behind this is to educate people. It’s not just for Asians, but for all kinds of people to come and learn about Asian-Pacific Americans.”

The evening began with an emotional rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner performed by Staff Sgt. Lisa Arrivas, from Task Force Med Falcon.

Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Mitomi, Area Support Group Command Sergeant Major, then gave a warm welcome to all guests and said he hoped the evening’s discussion would heighten cultural awareness.

“We must value our diversity, for this is our greatest strength,” Mitomi said.

He touched on the history of Japanese-Americans, focusing on World War II and the Japanese internment camps. Even though these citizens were being held against their will, many brave Japanese-Americans still volunteered to be separated from their families and fight for the United States, to “fight for a country that doubted their patriotism.”

“Although considered enemy aliens by their own country and restricted from their freedoms, many volunteered ... to show their dedication and loyalty to their nation,” Mitomi said. He added that while the United States denied them their fundamental freedoms as citizens, these Asian-Americans made the sacrifice for the generations to come by taking up arms against an enemy of their nation.

Many of these soldiers went on to be a part of the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in combat in U.S military history. They also proved, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, “Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race and ancestry.”

Col. Thomas Kim, a radiologist with Task Force Med Falcon, was the guest speaker for the evening. Kim, who was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to the United States in 1970, gave a presentation on Korea, highlighting its food, culture, language, dress,



**Staff Sgt. Maria Recto, intensive care, and Capt. Jacinta Showers, Adjutant, both with Task Force Med Falcon, look on as Col. Thomas Kim shares about Korean culture and history at the Asian-Pacific-American Heritage celebration May 30 at Camp Bondsteel. Showers is wearing a "hanbok" - a traditional Korean dress. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**

geography and history.

“Our symbol is the national flag,” he said, “but this doesn’t adequately express Korea’s identity. Nationality is something that becomes engrained in the minds and bodies of the people as they share life’s ups and downs together.”

Kim admitted there are many cultural differences between Korea and the United States, but said there is one thing that the citizens of both countries have in common.

“We all have dreams, we all have special dreams, and we can all make a difference,” he said.

Multi-National Brigade (East) Commander Brig. Gen. Daniel Keefe agreed in his closing remarks.

“This is something that the Kosovars don’t understand about Americans: What makes us strong is our diversity,” Keefe said. “They don’t understand this. They look at us as whether we’re black or white, or Asian-American or African-American, where we come from. But we don’t care about that. We work together hand in hand. We work together with great sincerity. We find strength in our diversity.”

# MNB(E) Paralegal Wins Army-Wide Award of Excellence

By Spc. Heidi Schaap

**S**taff Sgt. Osvaldo Martinez says he is just an everyday guy who tries to live his life the best he can. But the Chief Paralegal Non-Commissioned Officer for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Multi-National Brigade (East) at Camp Bondsteel recently received an award that shows he is anything but an “everyday guy.”

Martinez received official notification May 22 that he had been selected as the Department of the Army recipient of the Sgt. Eric L. Coggins Award of Excellence.

The purpose of the annual award, which was established in 1997 under the direction of Army Judge Advocate General Maj. Gen. Walter B. Huffman, is to recognize the junior enlisted paralegal specialist who best embodies the standards for which Coggins himself was known.

According to the Department of the Army, Coggins, an exemplary soldier, began his JAG Corps career as an airborne soldier at Fort Bragg, N.C. After this tour, he volunteered for Korea, and was then stationed in Doha, Kuwait. Coggins ran a superb “frontier” legal office under harsh conditions and excelled in soldier skills. Shortly after this tour, he was diagnosed with liver cancer. Maj. Gen. Huffman met him at Walter Reed Army Hospital and was so impressed, that when Coggins, at the age of 23, died shortly thereafter, Huffman established the award in his honor.

To be viewed as comparable with Coggins, contenders for this award must meet strenuous military criteria. Nominees must have scored at least 250 on their most recent Army physical fitness test, qualified as a marksman or higher with their assigned weapon, received first time “go”s on their most recent common task testing, be in compliance with Army weight standards, and be of superior character. They must also shine in non-military activities, as well.

“It not only involves your job, it also involves your life outside your job, like volunteering in the community. You’ve got to be a well-rounded soldier,”

Staff Sgt. Osvaldo Martinez, Chief Paralegal Non-Commissioned Officer for HHC, Multi-National Brigade (East) at Camp Bondsteel. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



Martinez explained. “And it’s not just ‘what did you do this year?’ but also ‘what did you do your entire military career?’”

Martinez surpassed the nomination criteria, excelling in all areas.

Sgt. Maj. Cornell W. Gilmore, sergeant major of the JAG Corps, said this year’s competition was one of the tightest he’d ever seen. He asserted that to be a finalist was a remarkable accomplishment and one in which each soldier should take pride.

“We are proud of him, and proud for him,” Gilmore said. “(Soldiers like Martinez) are extraordinary, and their units and commands have every reason to be proud of them.”

Although the Louisiana native is an NCO who takes care of both the soldiers who come into the JAG office for legal services and the soldiers in his unit, he remains humble about his achievements.

“To be honest with you, I’m not sure why they picked me – I’m just being me.

“Of course I’m happy, but I didn’t think that what I do on a regular basis would be so highly regarded. You just do the things every day that you

SEE **MARTINEZ** ON PAGE 46



# Soldiers Honor Fallen, Celebrate Future Freedoms



**Multi-National Brigade (East) Commander Brig. Gen. Daniel Keefe and Mr. Reno L. Harnish III, Chief of Mission, U.S. Office Pristina, share a moment of silence to remember fallen servicemembers at Camp Bondsteel May 26. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**

**By Spc. Heidi Schaap**

Multi-National Brigade (East) Commander Brig. Gen. Daniel Keefe and MNB(E) Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia hosted a Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at Camp Bondsteel. The ceremony honored the over one million men and women who have died in the effort to obtain and preserve freedom for the United States and the world.

Mr. Reno L. Harnish, III, Chief of Mission, U.S. Office Pristina, was the honored guest for the

ceremony.

The ceremony began with an invocation by Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Thompson and the posting of the colors.

The ceremony included speeches by Harnish and Keefe reflecting on the significance of Memorial Day.

“Today’s the day when the citizens of the United States express their gratitude to the fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines,” Keefe said. “We can never take freedom for granted. For you soldiers of the United States serving here in Kosovo, our mission to defend freedom lives on.”

Over 150 soldiers from various MNB(E) units participated in the ceremony at Victory Field and hundreds more attended. Every soldier stood silent as Harnish and Keefe laid a wreath in front of the colors to honor America’s fallen servicemembers while Taps echoed across the parade field.

**Various units from Camp Bondsteel salute the colors in a Memorial Day ceremony on Victory Field at the camp May 26. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**



# The Wall Remade, Remembering Vietnam

By Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

**S**oldiers from Multi-National Brigade (East) recreated The Wall, part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., over the Memorial Day weekend at Camp Bondsteel's U.S. Army Hospital.

Spc. Kimberly Garcia, Operating Room Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge, and Sgt. Roxanne Rivas, Medical Supply NCOIC, stayed up 24 hours straight May 25, putting last minute touches on the wall. They originally decided to build it for the benefit of the soldiers here on Camp Bondsteel.

"Soldiers won't be able to go



Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe, Commander MNB(E), presents Spc. Kimberly Garcia and Sgt. Roxanne Rivas with his coin for their work on recreating The Wall. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.

**Below:** Binder containing names of 'M' through 'S' of The Wall, part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., sits at the U.S. Army Hospital on Camp Bondsteel. The remaining names were displayed in alphabetical order on a replica of The Wall. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



**Above:** Cpl. Matthew Kimbrough, Cav. Scout with HHC, 2-63 Armor Battalion, finds his father's cousin, who died in Vietnam, on 'the wall.' Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.

to Washington D.C. to see the names, so we brought it here for them to see and remember," said Garcia.

Other soldiers from Task Force Medical Falcon also helped

with the project. These included Spc. Christina Munoz, Operating Room Technician, Spc. Luis Vargas, Dental Technician, Sgt.

SEE *THE WALL* ON PAGE 46



# 1<sup>st</sup> MP Company Changes Command

*Below: Capt. Stephen E. Gabavics, Lt. Col. La'Tonya D. Lynn and Capt. Tommy G. Kerr prepare to pass the guidon from old commander to new one. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.*



*Above: 1st Sgt. Jonathan Brown and guidon bearer Pfc. Zachary Jackson, both of the 1st MP Company, salute the U.S. flag during the national anthem at the change-of-command ceremonies at Camp Bondsteel May 30. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.*

**By Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold**

During a brief, yet memorable ceremony, Capt. Tommy G. Kerr proudly assumed command of “the best MP unit in the United States Army,” the 1<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company.

Kerr’s most recent assignment was Provost Marshal, 223<sup>rd</sup> Base Support Battalion, Darmstadt, Germany.

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Provost Marshall Lt. Col La'Tonya D. Lynn, presided over the change-of-command ceremony.

Kerr replaces Capt. Stephen E. Gabavics, who commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> MP Co. for 21 months.

The officers and soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> MP Co. thanked Gabavics for his outstanding leadership and wished him continued success. He will assume duties as the Senior Military Police Observer/Controller at the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany.

**Capt. Tommy Kerr passes the guidon of the 1st MP Company to 1st Sgt. Jonathan Brown, symbolizing the new commander taking charge of the company. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**



# Strength in Numbers:

## *Economic Team Helps Local Businesses Connect*

By Spc. Heidi Schaap

A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

There is strength in numbers.

Two heads are better than one.

There are many ways to describe the wisdom one small group of Camp Bondsteel soldiers is sharing with local businesses, in an effort to help them improve Kosovo's economic future.

Team Two of the 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion has recently taken on the challenging task of interviewing numerous local business owners to gauge their current financial situations and production needs. After the business assessments are completed and the data compiled, the team will use this information to help the businesses form a chamber of commerce they



**Staff Sgt. Travis Try, Team Two team sergeant, 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, and his interpreter, Besnik Ismaili, talk to workers in a Ferizaj/Urosevac pipe factory during an economic assessment May 21. The team is learning about local businesses and helping them form a chamber of commerce. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**



**Staff Sgt. Travis Try, 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion team two team sergeant, and his interpreter, Bisnik Ismaili, conduct an assessment with a local business owner in Ferizaj/Urosevac. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**

can use to increase inter-provincial trade.

“The concept is really very simple,” said Capt. William Lawson, 415<sup>th</sup> Team Two team chief. “If one person produces wheat and another runs a distillery, we help the two come together. The farmer sells his wheat to the distiller and doesn’t have to export his product. The distiller buys his wheat from the farmer and doesn’t have to import from outside Kosovo.”

Assessing a business means the economic team visits local owners and helps them fill out a survey identifying what material the business produces or service it provides and what materials it needs to operate.



Ismet Hyseni, the director of Kosovatrans Transportation Company, said in a survey he needs engine parts and diesel fuel to keep his bus company running. He also said he not only supplies low cost transportation but can provide mechanical service to other bus companies. The team's survey showed, however, that Hyseni is importing the parts from Turkey and buying fuel for his buses at a local gas station at higher than average prices. After the chamber of commerce is formed, Hyseni may be able to buy his parts and fuel from a merchant within Kosovo at a lower cost.

Linking local businesses to local suppliers helps them avoid some of the taxes that go along with importing and exporting goods, leaving them more money to feed back into Kosovo's growing economy.

"This is what we do," said Staff Sgt. Travis Try, 415<sup>th</sup> Team Two team sergeant. "We find out what their problems are, and connect businesses with businesses."

"We'd like to network all the businesses together so (they) don't have to go outside," Lawson added.

Hyseni was excited about the prospect of a

chamber of commerce, adding that profitability in Kosovo hasn't always been easy to come by.

"But I hope in the future we will do better," he said.

The 415<sup>th</sup> is the first Task Force Falcon civil affairs rotation that has attempted this kind of economic evaluation and Lawson said he hopes his team's efforts will be able to jumpstart the local economy.

Avdullix Muhaxheri, the owner of Fershped Trucking Company in Ferizaj, said he is glad the team is taking the time to help him develop a more competitive business strategy. "To be honest, you are the first one to care, to address my concerns," he told the group of soldiers.

Lawson asked Muhaxheri to be patient in this process of growth, change, and connection making, yet his optimism was visible.

"It won't happen tomorrow," Lawson told him, "but eventually, we can work it out. Everybody needs help."

"Yes," answered Muhaxheri. "We couldn't live without it."

**Staff Sgt. Travis Try, Team Two team sergeant, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, and his interpreter, Nick Ismaili, talk to workers in a Ferizaj/Urosevac pipe factory during an economic assessment May 21. The team is learning about local businesses and helping them form a chamber of commerce. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**





# Live Fire Exercise Prepares 82nd Engineers

By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

Smoke billowed and ammunition exploded as 2nd Platoon of Alpha Company, 82nd Engineers popped smoke and fired small arms weapons as part of a squad live fire exercise at Falcon Three range near Pasajane June 2.

As the sun came up over the green hilltops of this agricultural area of Kosovo, the soldiers rose early to place the targets they would later be advancing and firing upon.

Second Lt. David Meier, 2nd Platoon leader, said the range was important to his soldiers because engineers must not only learn their demolition and construction function, but they must also learn several other duties so they can support almost any type of unit.

Each squad made a dry run on the range and returned to make necessary adjustments. They used Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System gear for a blank-fire mission. The squads began their movement to contact in an over-watch formation. Each squad formed a wedge with a point man in front and the remainder of the team spread out behind him.

Upon contact, each squad immediately got into the prone position and began bounding over-watch, utilizing buddy team tactical movement. Each fire team moved in two-man teams, alternating movements with one pair of soldiers providing covering fire and the other pair moving “under fire.”

The squads moved in this



**Pfc. Mitchell Sievers, a rifleman with Alpha Co., 82nd Engineers, conducts a three to five second rush during a dry fire run on Falcon 3 June 2. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**





**An Alpha Company, 82nd Engineers, buddy team uses a series of combat rolls to exit a ravine used as a covered and concealed route to flank the objective on Falcon Three June 2. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

manner while targets were raised, engaged and lowered. This continued until the squad reached a mound that crossed the range in the approximate center.

At this point, the squads got on line and a flanking element separated from the main advance. Using the high walls of an eroded streambed as concealment, the team moved toward the right side of the targets. They popped colored

smoke to signal that the support team should shift fires upon their advance. They got within grenade range and threw grenade simulators into the “enemy” positions.

Then, each squad reconsolidated, popped smoke grenades to conceal their movement, and began a “break contact” drill. The squad bounded back about 150 meters and conducted reorganization operations.

The squads made final adjustments and reloaded with live rounds. They repeated the exercise one more time during the day and again under cover of darkness.

On the command of “End-ex!” the squad formed a horseshoe formation around their platoon leadership for an after action review of the mission.

“We need to work on our communication a little bit,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Swanson. “Our communication is good, but when we get out there on the firing lines people are trying to hear others yelling commands. They are kind of timid; they need to get used to yelling.”

Pfc. Aaron Peters, a new squad member with eight months of duty, said the opportunity to train in what is not a typical engineer role was a good experience.

“You need to know how to take care of business,” Peters said. “Infantry can’t be there all the time. Everybody that’s military should know how to fight.”



**A fire team from Alpha Company, 82nd Engineers, waits for smoke to build up prior to a “break contact” drill during a blank fire run June 2 on Falcon 3. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

# Russians Bid Farewell to KFOR

By Spc. Heidi Schaap

Dosvidanya – (goodbye) – was a word often heard at the Russian Farewell Ceremony at Camp Bondsteel June 5.

The gathering at Victory Field was held for the 13<sup>th</sup> Russian Tactical Group to honor and acknowledge their service with Multi-National Brigade (East) in the Kamenica sector since June, 1999. Both the Russian and American armies were represented on the field in a platoon and a color guard formation.

MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Daniel Keefe, who spoke at the ceremony, said the Russian and American armies have historically worked very successfully together, citing examples like Kosovo and Bosnia.



**Russian Major General Nikolai Kriventsov and American Brigadier General Daniel Keefe walk together to inspect the troops at the Russian Transfer of Authority and Farewell ceremony on Camp Bondsteel June 5. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**



**Maj. Gen. Nikolai Kriventsov shares final remarks with Russian and American soldiers at the Russian Farewell Ceremony at Camp Bondsteel June 5. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**

“This close cooperation and professional relationship is important not only for the Russian and American people, but for the people of the entire world,” he said.

Commander of the Russian Military Contingent, Maj. Gen. Nikolai Kriventsov, was an honored guest at the ceremony.

After the presentation of the colors and national honors, Keefe and Kriventsov inspected the troops and Keefe presented 13<sup>th</sup> Tactical Group Commander Lt. Col. Mikhail Lapinsky a plaque for his leadership and “unwavering support” of the brigade.

Kriventsov then shared touching words about the time his group served with MNB(E).

“Undoubtedly, the result of our joint activities in Kosovo have become the standard of international cooperation for solving

conflicts in different regions around the world,” he said.

Kriventsov added that finding ways to mutual understanding and trust, and becoming friends with each other, have been some of the most significant achievements of the peacekeeping process.

“We will keep in our memory for a long time our difficult but excellent joint mission in the Balkans,” he said. “And we will never forget your frank, smiling faces, your strong, friendly handshakes, and your readiness to assist your Russian colleagues.”

Kriventsov said he considered the Russian-U.S. peacekeeping experience to be a great success.

Keefe agreed the joint mission was successful.

“Your commitment has been vital to the success of this brigade,” Keefe said. “You will be greatly missed.”



# Trained in Kalamazoo-Tested in Kosovo

By Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

Broken bones and bleeding wounds are two things most people probably don't expect to see on their morning drive to work. Spc. Brandi VanBoven, civil affairs specialist with the 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion from Kalamazoo, Mich., doesn't look forward to such a sight either. However, she does have the technical and recent practical experience to face such a situation.

VanBoven gained the technical part of her experience by completing the combat lifesaver training at her Army Reserve unit in southern Michigan.

VanBoven's "baptism by fire" in giving emergency aid came one morning in Strpce during the first week of May. According to VanBoven, her team came upon an accident scene that involved a farm tractor and wagon. The tractor had rolled over onto its side causing the wagon to come loose. One occupant of the farm vehicle was pinned under the wagon. Other

**Spc. Brandi VanBoven prepares the area of her patients arm where she will put in an IV. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**



civilians in the vicinity pulled him free and placed him in a car for transport to a medical facility. The other passenger also suffered injuries.

"While I was not able to examine the first individual, I'm pretty sure his leg may have been broken. I would have liked to look at his injuries," said VanBoven.

However, she was able to offer medical care to the second individual. VanBoven stated, "He had a pretty good cut on his left hand and road rash around his left shoulder."

VanBoven applied a sterile dressing along with an antiseptic ointment and then gave the accident victim a drink of water. "I, through an interpreter, told him to have the injury checked out by a doctor, because he would probably need stitches," said VanBoven. She could only hope that her patient was going to take her advice.

Her combat lifesaver skills came close to being tested even further as her patient almost needed an IV. Shortly after VanBoven applied first aid, he responded positively to the treatment and seemed to be feeling better.

"I was a little nervous at first, because I did not know all the injuries he had," she said. "But after I got over being a little shaky, I thought 'Yeah! I get to help somebody out.'"

Spc. VanBoven is typical of the Multi-National Brigade (East) "Good Samaritan" mentality. She embodies the ideal that anyone, regardless of race, creed, gender or color should be helped as needed. With MNB(E) soldiers like VanBoven, a safe and secure environment is not just a pledge; it is a commitment in action.



**Spc. Brandi VanBoven, civil affairs specialist with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion based out of Kalamazoo, Mich. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**

# MWR Delivers Fun, Games

## Bicycling



Story by Spc. Heidi Schaap  
Photos by the 203rd MPAD

Camp Bondsteel's Morale, Welfare and Recreation provided something for everyone on Memorial Day weekend. Many service members from various countries attended events on the first "unofficial" weekend of summer.

Saturday, May 24 there were various basketball events, including a 3-point shooting contest and dunking contest. That night, drawing approximately 125 people, was the Mr. Task Force Falcon Bodybuilding Competition.



## Volleyball

## Weight Lifting



## Horseshoes





# es Memorial Day Weekend

Four cyclists competed in a bike race around the camp Sunday afternoon, May 25. Later was a moderate attendance at the bench press competition followed by an evening of karaoke.

On Memorial Day, May 26, over 50 soldiers competed in a volleyball tournament, while still others played horseshoes at the south MWR pits.

Over all, MWR's creativity and commitment to troops ensured that many of Multi-National Brigade (East)'s soldiers had a relaxing, enjoyable weekend.



## olleyball



## Basketball



# What I DIDN'T Do on My Summer Vacation

By Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

PALDENCIA, Kosovo — Amidst the smell of wood burning in the stoves and the sound of roosters crowing and cowbells clanging, arose the innocent sounds of Kosovo's school children joyfully leaving their school for summer vacation. Nearby, a special group from the Multi-National Brigade (East) is hoping when these children return in the fall, each child will echo similar sounds.

The KFOR Mine Risk Education "Campaign Safe Summer" is the basis for this hope. This campaign is a coordinated effort to educate Kosovo children of the MNB(E) sector to not handle mines or Unexploded Ordnance. It also encourages them to report any sightings to the local police, KFOR or a local school official. Posters and booklets for this purpose are distributed to schools considered to be in



**Schban Cupip, teacher for the third-grade students at the Paldencia school, introduces his class to the land mine safety booklets that MNB(E) and KFOR are handing out to schools in "at risk" areas. This is part of Operation Safe Summer. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**



**Aziz Krasniqi, third-grader at Paldencia tells members of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion about his encounter and quick reactions with an object that looked like a land mine. Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**

"at risk" areas for UXO's and land mines. There are eleven of these schools in the MNB(E) sector.

The MRE and the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Camp Bondsteel picked up the educational materials and distributed them, with instructions, to members of the 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion to distribute them to teachers of these eleven schools.

Maj. Christopher Dowling, 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs team eight officer-in-charge, and his team visited two schools that are responsible for 330 students.

Sixty-two students of the four-room Kacanik school enthusiastically received the booklets they will use for taking assignments. The colorful front cover explains in Albanian, "Playing games is super, but not in a dangerous area." The back cover displays pictures of common mines and UXOs that have been found in the MNB(E) sector. The pictures are prefaced with a warning: "Mines can kill or injure you, don't risk your life playing with them. If you see them, don't touch. Report to Police or KFOR!"

Ahmet Kalisi, a schoolteacher at Kacanik, expressed his gratitude to Spc. Jeff Markle, civil affairs specialist with the 415<sup>th</sup>, for the mine education materials and the four years KFOR has cooperated with this Kosovo border town school.

A few kilometers up the road, lush green hilltops nestled a nine-room school building in the border





**Students look and listen as if their lives depended on it, to information on posters about mines and UXO's in their area. The educational material was brought to them by members of the 415th from MNB(E). Photo by Spc. Heidi Schaap.**

town of Paldencia. In it, not only 10 fragrant rose bushes, but also more than a hundred blossoming young citizens of Kosovo greeted Spc. Neal Peterson, civil affairs specialist with the 415th, and the rest of his team.

Children watched intently as Peterson showed teacher Schban Cupi's third grade class the poster showing the types of mines that have been seen in the area. Cupi asked his class if they knew what the pictures showed. In a sad yet confident voice the class as a whole said, in Albanian, "Mine."

The students had been taught early in their young lives to avoid land mines. This was evident by the reply, in their native tongue, "Stay away," when they were asked what to do if they saw a mine or something resembling it.

But does this classroom knowledge really help keep children safe when they are out in the fields and hillsides? Aziz Krasniqi, one of the 20 third-graders at Paldencia, told of a time when the classroom instruction he received helped to keep him and his friends safe.

Late one afternoon, Aziz went into the forest by his home to bring in the family cattle. As he was on his way back, he noticed a "little greenish box that looked like it was plastic or aluminum. It had a circle on its side." Aziz warned the other children "Do not touch."

The others did not want to listen to Aziz and tried to play with the box. However, for their sake, Aziz stayed strong in his demands to leave it alone and report it to the authorities. The other children

finally listened to their friend and they all ran back to town to report the sighting. The authorities soon returned with Aziz and his friends to investigate the unknown package. After careful examination by officials it was discovered the object was not really a mine, but some remnant of a recent construction project.

Aziz took his mine awareness education seriously, and regardless of the final outcome of his "green box" adventure, he was right in his actions. The outcome of this incident could easily have been disastrous. However, with mine education programs like MNB(E)'s "Campaign Safe Summer" and other similar programs, Aziz and his classmates will be able to have a safe and secure summer vacation, and a safe and secure life.

# Combat Medic Goes Above and Beyond the Call

By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

**U**. S. Army soldiers have a worldwide reputation for their discipline, integrity, and dedication to duty. The individual soldier has earned this reputation for all of us.

These qualities are so common among the troops of the world's ultimate fighting force, rarely does a soldier become noticed for possessing these traits. It is merely expected that soldiers will perform in an exemplary manner.

However, now and again an individual goes a little bit further out of his way in the performance of his duties to place himself on an even higher plateau than that of a warrior in this force.

One such individual is Spc. William Gonzalez, a combat medic attached to Alpha Company, 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineers.

Gonzalez graduated second in his mechanic class and became an M1-A1 Abrams turret mechanic for two years. After this he became a registered Emergency Medical Technician prior to ever becoming a medic.

He was proactive about becoming a registered EMT.

"I knew that was going to be part of the Combat Medic Program when I reclassified," Gonzalez said.

The soldier was persuaded to enter the Army as a mechanic but does not regret those two years of service away from his desired occupation in the medical field.

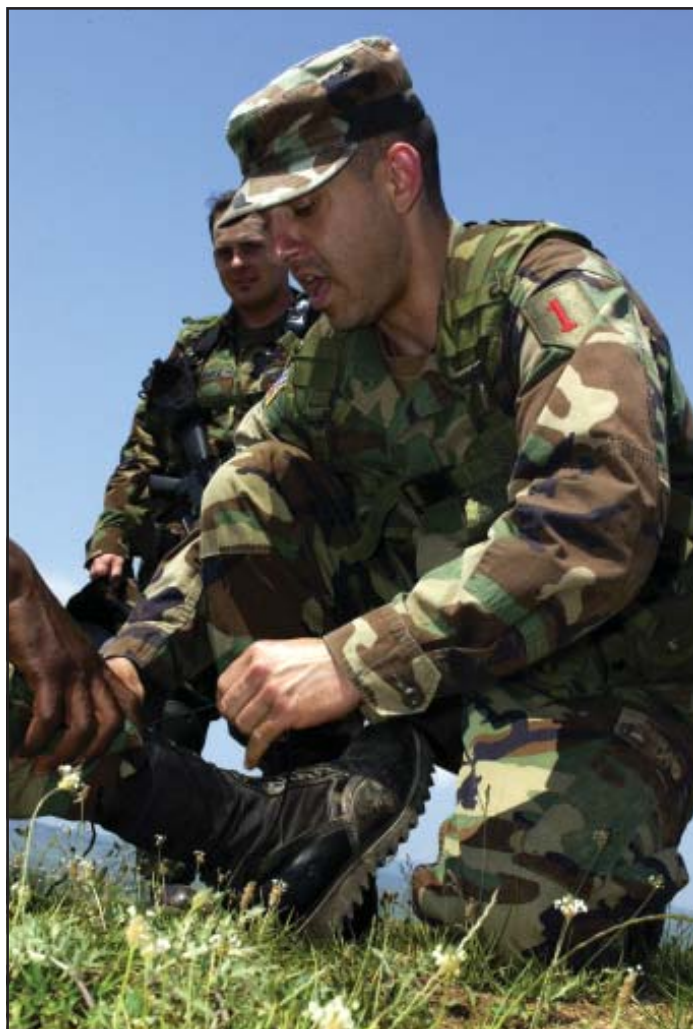
He continued, "I knew that once I became a medic, more than likely, ...any experience I had as a mechanic would just make me a better operator."

He said his mechanical experience came in handy during his first field rotation as a medic.

"Two humvees went down. Instead of having to call a recovery team, I just changed the generators out right there.

"It just makes you more fit wherever you go," Gonzalez said, and compared the dual qualification to having a major and minor college degree that are not related.

During a live fire range with the unit he is currently attached to, Gonzalez trained 2nd Platoon's Combat Life Savers to start an IV under the limited visibility conditions of a red lens flashlight.



**Right: Combat Medic, Spc. William Gonzalez, prepares to give first aid to the injured ankle of Staff Sgt. Donaval Avila. Avila twisted his ankle while conducting a training mission on Falcon 3, a range near the village of Pasajane, Kosovo. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

"It's a lot different doing a stick out in the field than it is in a classroom," said Pfc. Robert Radosevich, squad automatic weapon gunner for Alpha Co., "so it's a lot more real."

"If those guys don't know what to do, it's not their fault, it's mine because I'm their medic," said Gonzalez. "So any time that these guys go out ...if they can fit me in to do any extra training, I volunteer for it."

Gonzales reinforced the importance of the CLS by adding, "I am one medic for a company, and it's great that I can do it, but you have two CLS's per squad. If anything happens, the odds are that it's





**Spc. William Gonzalez, a medic attached to Alpha company, 82nd Engineers, lies in the prone while advancing down range with soldiers of the unit moving on targets during a dry fire exercise June 2. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

going to be a CLS treating before me.

“If you can do an IV stick by red lens flashlight, which isn’t as easy as it sounds, or by night vision goggles, then on a bright day with the sun out, you’re not going to second guess yourself,” he said.

Gonzalez said the effect of red light on the eyes while concentrating makes the task more difficult.

He wants to add a lane to the curriculum of the CLS qualification course. Its purpose would be to evaluate the CLS in a more realistic environment than a classroom could provide.

Events Gonzalez would like to see in the lane include triaging casualties, selecting a casualty collection point, and evaluating casualties in a mass casualty environment.

Spc. Brian D. Christianson, a team leader and certified CLS with Alpha Co., said Gonzalez consistently makes an effort to be involved with the unit regardless of the mission.

“If we go out on a mission and we don’t bring him with us, he’ll actually complain that we’re not using him,” he said.

“He always goes above and beyond,” Christianson continued.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Craig Willey, 2nd Platoon’s platoon sergeant, with 19 years of service, said of Gonzalez’s dedication, “I’ve seen maybe one or two other medics that actually get out and are as proactive as he is.

“Our CLS guys, in our platoon, stay better trained and stay at a higher sustainment level of training with this guy around us,” added Willey.

Staff Sgt. Donaval Avila, a

squad leader in 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, spoke of Gonzalez’s devotion to ensuring that the CLS qualified personnel of the company maintained their knowledge as well as he did.

“They realize that CLS is a major component of our readiness. I feel comfortable about my guys taking care of each other. I’m very happy to have [Gonzalez] around,” Avila said.

Radosevich may have put it best when he simply said, “he’s awesome.”

Soldiers like Gonzalez only add to the already high esteem that Army personnel have achieved and continue to maintain in the world today. His service in support of Alpha Co., 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineers, sets a standard that every war fighter can be proud of and reflects highly on him and his leaders. He is one soldier who lives the First Division ethos of “Duty First.”

## MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS

# Take Shelter in Safety

**By George H. Wyatt**  
**Multi-National Brigade (East) Safety Manager**

As summer arrives, the risk for heat injury will increase. We must stay hydrated and eat a proper diet. Obeying the work, rest and hydration requirements indicated by each heat category is paramount when conducting physical labor and training. Recognizing the early symptoms of heat injury in us and in our buddies is paramount.

Vehicular speed continues to be a problem on and off base camp. We've all heard that speed must be adjusted for the conditions, and it is easy to realize that wet, rough or winding roads, rain and low visibility are reasons to slow down. Often though, we don't recognize that there are other conditions, such as heavy traffic, dense pedestrian activity and slow moving vehicles and animals, which also require us to adjust speed.

In Kosovo, we try to maintain a safe and secure environment in which the local population can live. Accidents can jeopardize those efforts. Death and injury accidents cause unnecessary pain, suffering, and hardship on military and civilian personnel, their comrades, and family members. Serious accidents have a negative effect on unit morale and efficiency. In addition, the Army pays millions of dollars annually for accidents directly and indirectly; accidents that bring unnecessary negative publicity upon the Army.

More than 80 percent of all accidents can be credited to human error. Improper driving techniques are the number one cause of accidents in Kosovo. The root causes of poor driving techniques are linked to improper supervision, inadequate training and experience, failure to follow or enforce standards, improper attitude, false sense of urgency, or driving too fast for conditions. These root causes apply to driving, but they apply to all other tasks as well. So, follow the "common sense" rules of the road. Drive defensively, and never drive aggressively.

Safety requires team effort and is incorporated



**George H. Wyatt, Multi-National Brigade (East) Safety Manager. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.**

into everything we do. The operational tempo here is tremendous, and the safety program is one of the best I've seen. With that in mind, remember complacency and overconfidence are the enemies of safety.

As we near the end of our rotation, it's important not to become overconfident or complacent with equipment, procedures or safety precautions. Doing so can make hazards appear less threatening than they really are. Safety procedures not followed and shortcuts taken cause accidents. It is important to stay alert and keep focused on our duties.



The extension of this rotation beyond the planned and anticipated transfer of authority will probably contribute to psychological and physical fatigue, and with the end of this rotation under two months away, soldiers might have a tendency to let down prematurely. The key for commanders and safety managers is to recognize the trends and implement action before serious accidents occur.

Two weeks into this rotation, the safety of our soldiers began to improve until a harsh, two-week period of freezing rain, snow and ice brought an increase in accidents. Afterward the accidents declined and have remained relatively low since.

As we moved past May 21, our originally scheduled rotation date, this rotation had improved the accident rate by nearly 1/3 over the previous rotation, and by nearly 1/2 over the rotation before that. No previous rotation has attained such favorable statistics over a 6-month period.

When we began this rotation, a statistical accident analysis was conducted that indicated by May 21, 2003, at least one of us would be killed or permanently disabled in a senseless accident, or the cost of property damage in an accident would be \$1 million or more. In spite of our best efforts in prevention, this happened. However, it did not happen within the timeframe of the analysis, but nearly three weeks beyond.

The analysis also indicated that two of us would be permanently, partially disabled or the property damage would be more than \$200,000 but less than \$1 million. That did not happen. The analysis predicted that 14 of us would be involved in accidents that hospitalized us for more than

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 32

## Driving Safety Tips



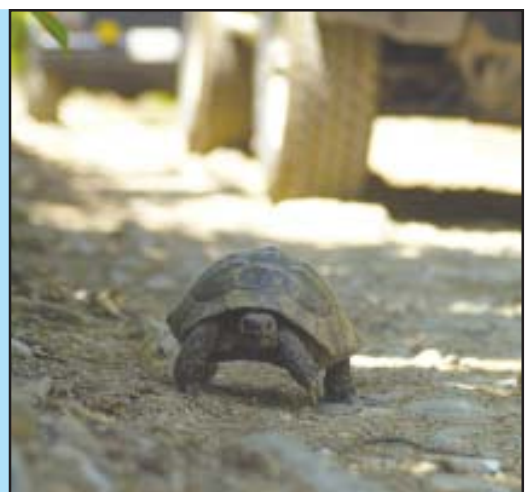
Trucks, cars and little children all share the roadways at the same time. Be cautious of all three. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

Larger KFOR vehicles on narrow roads represent a definite "slow down and scoot over" driving technique. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



Passing a vehicle on a hill or when visibility is limited is a dangerous and potentially life threatening action. Just wait until all is clear. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

Sometimes you need to move over and let faster traffic pass. Allowing others to go ahead could prevent accidents as a result of impatient drivers. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



SEE PAGE 32 FOR MORE DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

FROM PAGE 31

## ***SAFETY***

24 hours or the property damages would be more than \$20,000 but less than \$200,000. Six were reported. Finally, the analysis indicated that 121 total accidents would be reported. Actual reported total accidents were 81. The analysis was based on the average statistics of the previous three rotations and considered the correlation of a moderate reduction in forces.

This success can be attributed to the discipline level and positive attitudes of the hardworking members of this task force, also to the level of training received prior to arriving in Kosovo, and furthermore to the leadership of this task force from the bottom to the top.

I commend our leadership who understands the high cost of accidents and strives diligently to enforce safety standards. Our G3, S3 and operations sections ensure safety with the integration of the five-step risk-management process in every operation. Unit safety officers and non-commissioned officers monitor safety hazards and advise their commanders on safety and risk management. In addition, the individual members of this task force themselves recognize their responsibilities to safety for themselves and their equipment.

As a final point, this task force is supported by a number of professionally trained personnel and organizations that monitor and respond to hazards that go way beyond the safety office. Some of these are the Fire Department, the Air Force Weather Team, the Deployed Operations Group, Force Protection, Preventive Medicine, Environmental teams, Industrial Hygiene, the Industrial Engineers, the Construction Engineers, the Tactical Engineers, the Military Police, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, the Aviation Maintenance Quality Control, and the ground vehicle Maintenance Technical Logistics Assistance Representatives, just to name a few.

Everyone is important to this brigade and vital to the success of our current and future operations. There is always room for improvement. Rarely does anyone see a "0" accident rate in a maneuver unit, though we always work towards that goal.

## ***Driving Safety Tips***



**A variety of "vehicles" on Kosovo roads present a variety of driving challenges. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**



**Some vehicles are truly "horse powered" and may not always travel where they should. Pedestrians also use the road when shoulders are non-existent. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**





Between school-age children, cyclists and on-coming traffic there is no room for error in making driving decisions. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



Motor vehicles are not the only traffic traveling on local byways. Animals may act unpredictably. Always be very cautious when coming upon animals on the roads. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

Drivers should not only be watchful of vehicles on the road, but those disabled ones on the narrow shoulders of the road. Photo Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.



Urban driving has many challenges, such as congested traffic and unexpected changes in vehicle movement. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

Oncoming vehicles may pull out from nowhere causing evasive driving maneuvers. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.





# Soccer Tournament Offers Fun, Morale

By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo — Soldiers and civilian KFOR employees participated in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation soccer tournament Saturday, May 17, and Monday, May 19.

The tournament, scheduled for the weekend, was rained out Sunday. This delayed the championship round until Monday.

Staff Sgt. Eric Fritz of Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 2-2 Infantry Battalion, said the tournament was a welcome break from his duties.

“We got relieved off of force protection last week and Sunday,” Fritz said. “It was great. We have been waiting for something like



Members of the top three placing teams in the tournament gather around the championship trophy in a final show of sportsmanship. Though the trophy was designated as the award for first place, the Albanians showed themselves excellent ambassadors as they gave the trophy to the second place F Troop team. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

Spc. Nicholas Sheppard, goalie for HHC 2-2 Infantry's Support Platoon, blocks a shot during the two day soccer tournament held on Camp Monteith May 17 and 19. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



(the tournament). We had a tournament here about three or four weeks ago, but we were still on force protection.”

Fritz also explained how the tournament builds teamwork and morale among the soldiers.

“It’s a big cohesion thing. You can all be together. You can actually put the work aside and put the rank somewhat aside. It’s a team of one. Everyone’s at the same level and you can play. I think that’s what it’s there for.”

The support platoon team was able to beat every soldier team they faced, yet lost to the local teams.

“You could really see that soccer is their national sport. The civilians were really good at it. I think they would be in our position if we were playing (American) football.”

Spc. Nicholas Sheppard, of HHC, 2-2 Support Platoon, was a first time soccer player in the





A civilian worker on Camp Monteith readies himself to be hit by the oncoming shot of Spc. Luis A. Perez of HHC 2-2 Infantry while serving as goalie during the tournament. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

goalie position. He said the great thing about his first time was, "...the ball coming at you and thinking whether it was going to hit you in the face or not. With my first time being goalie, I didn't know exactly what to do, people were in my way and I couldn't see."

Support platoon's final game went into a nail-biting overtime shoot-out. Each team rotated five of their players through for free shots from 15 feet away. They were trying to get the ball past the opposing team's goalie.

"I really couldn't spot the ball coming off the ground," said Sheppard. "I didn't care if the ball hit me. I was just trying to stop it! I had a lot of pressure put on me, but I like pressure put on me. It was a challenge and I like challenges."

Maintenance Technician Spc. Luis A. Perez of HHC, 2-2 Infantry also participated in the tournament. He said he really liked playing with the local nationals.

"It's something to get your mind off this whole Army issue and distract yourself," Perez said. "You come out here and enjoy your time with the civilians and show them we're also here to enjoy our time with them."

HHC, 2-2 Support Platoon finished without a medal in fourth place. First and third place went to two local teams, and the second place finisher was a team of F Troop, Fourth Cavalry "Phantoms" soldiers.

"It was a really nice experience for us and them," Perez said. "It gives us time to say thanks for the time out here."

A soldier of the team from F Troop, Fourth Cavalry, "Phantoms" kisses the second place trophy during the brief awards ceremony held upon completion of the tournament. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.





# Land Navigation, Confidence Builder



**Team Leader Sgt. Chris Echevarria trains Rifleman, Luis Grau on how to plot his points at the land navigation start point during training May 28. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

## By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

Alpha Company, 2-2 Infantry Battalion utilized their leather personnel carriers once again for transportation on the land navigation site near Falcon Three May 28.

During the three hour course, soldiers were evaluated on their ability to plot a given grid point on a map, use a lensatic compass, and navigate from one point on the ground to another while dismounted.

Land navigation is a common soldier task in the Army. It is required training for all soldiers.

"It's definitely important. Any time you go out to the field, you're going to need it. You won't always have a 'plugger' (global positioning system) or you may have one and it may mess up," said Pvt. Ronald Borth.

Borth said the training on land navigation was a confidence booster. "I know if I get lost or I get separated, I can find my way to my destination," he added.

The soldiers faced problems such as inexperience, unfamiliar terrain, heat, and a rugged hill-covered course during their training.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Jackson,

acting platoon sergeant, said plotting the points before the soldiers moved out helped them to "have a visual in their mind what the terrain will look like when they come up on their point. They can (use) terrain association."

Terrain association is using the surrounding terrain to find a location on a map. In order to use this skill a soldier must be able to identify the terrain features he sees on the ground and find those same terrain features on a map.

A soldier can use roads, buildings, hills, valleys, spurs, cliffs, saddles, ridges, bodies of water, or other features shown on a





**Left: (Back) Sgt. Luis Galvez, a team leader with "ICE" platoon, A company 2-2 Infantry, uses the compass to cheek method to verify the azimuth of Pfc. Chris Gifford enroute to a point during land navigation training May 28. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

**Below: Pfc. Clyde Barlow, a gunner with Alpha company, 2-2 Infantry uses the center hold method to get his azimuth during land navigation training May 28 near Falcon Four. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**



map in order to pinpoint his location or to verify that he is indeed where he thinks he is.

The troops of Alpha Co. "ICE" platoon demonstrated the ability to use both the "center hold" and the "compass to cheek" method. "We as leaders give the soldiers our opinion on which is more accurate. We let the soldiers use both methods. Then they use the method that is more comfortable for them."

According to Army Field Manual 21-26, the advantages to the center hold method include quicker and easier use, use under all conditions of visibility, terrain, and it can be used without removing corrective eyewear.

The FM states that the compass to cheek method is the best technique for sighting. The compass can give an accurate azimuth to a target from a known location and is used in calling for fire.

The steep, rolling hills affected the pace counts of the soldiers on the course. When one measures straight-line distance on a map, he must take into account the terrain he is to be walking on. The distance represented when a soldier uses his protractor to measure between two points on the map is increased greatly in rough terrain due to changes in elevation.

SEE *NAVIGATE* ON PAGE 38

FROM PAGE 37

## NAVIGATE

“Some of the guys are having problems converting from grid [azimuth] to magnetic [azimuth],” said Sgt. Luis Galvez, a team leader in Alpha Co.

This grid to magnetic difference is attributed to the fact that there are three different “north” points in land navigation. “True North” is the direction to the North Pole. “Grid North” is the direction to the top of a map. Magnetic North is the direction in which the needle on a compass points. Due to the earth’s magnetic field, this point is located in northern Canada.

What does all this mean to soldiers on the ground in Kosovo? At the bottom of each military map, there is a “declination diagram” complete with instructions on how to use the information. The diagram tells the difference in degrees from grid north on the map to magnetic north on the compass. This will tell one whether to add or subtract degrees depending on whether the soldier is converting grid to magnetic or magnetic to grid.

This calculation also differs whether the location represented by the map has a westerly or easterly declination. The declination diagram will also clarify which type of declination a map has.

Galvez said the key to success in the hills of Kosovo is to terrain associate. “Your pace count is going to be off, so, if you look at your map and see something you recognize on the map, then you should know where you’re at.”



PFC Chris Gifford, a rifleman in Alpha company, 2-2 infantry orients his map to verify the location of his point by terrain association during land navigation training May 28. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



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# Computer Security:

## *How to Keep Your Information Safe*

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By Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

605 million. This is the approximate number of Internet users around the world according to a Nua Internet survey conducted in September 2002.

Cyberatlas.com estimates this number will grow to between 700 and 950 million users by 2004 and each time you access the Internet through the World Wide Web, any one of them has an opportunity to do harm to your computer or network.

So how do you protect yourself? Here are some recommendations by Werner Johnson, senior information assurance officer for KFOR, and Wallace Davis, Information Assurance Manager, Balkans Region.

- Be on the look out for suspicious or unknown emails, even those claiming to be from Microsoft. Do not open email attachments from people you don't know.

- Don't respond to Spam, since this lets them

know your email is legitimate and will increase the likelihood of receiving more junk mail.

- Don't put shareware or freeware on government computers because they inherently contain viruses.

- Avoid peer-to-peer file sharing, which opens a hole in the firewall, giving hackers unlimited access to your computer.

- When sending personal information or making online purchases, make sure a 'lock' appears in the lower right of the screen and the URL starts with 'https.'

- Report any erratic or slower than normal behavior from your computer, since this may indicate you have a virus.

If at any time you suspect your system to be under attack, don't shut off the computer. Simply unplug the network cable and call the Camp Bondsteel Network Support Center at ext. 119.



Robert Parlier, help desk technician at the Network Support Center, uses a properly secured computer. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.

# Female MP Strives to be All

By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

The U.S. Army strives to provide a work atmosphere where

equal opportunity is given to all soldiers and civilians regardless of race, age, gender or religion.

While females can't serve in

combat arms Military Occupational Specialties at this time, there is a wide array of duty positions they may fill and excel in, such as the Military Police.

Spc. Rebecca Pennington, a driver with the 1<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, said "as soon as I got to the unit, we had a gunnery with the whole company. I proved myself then because I was a MK-19 gunner. There was a moving target that if anyone hit, they got a four-day pass. I was the only one who hit it."

Pennington added that she was also the fastest in her company in taking the 72.5-pound MK-19 down and placing the squad automatic weapon up in a humvee.

The two events earned her a "most motivated soldier" award.

"I think it takes a special kind of female to be an MP. You have a certain kind of attitude. You have to be a hard charger to hack it.

"I like to play around and get dirty, shoot [things] and blow [things] up, so it's worked out really well for me," she added.

Pennington gave some advice to other females looking to join the military.

"You need to figure out what you're getting into before you do it. Step back and look at yourself for real. If you're not willing to give it your all, you don't need to be here."

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Campbell, Pennington's platoon sergeant, had some very positive things to say about the young specialist. He talked about her high level of motivation in everything she does. He referred to one squad competition when Pennington,



Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Campbell, Platoon Sergeant with 1st MP company spots Spc. Rebecca Pennington, a driver with that unit during a voluntary extra physical training session. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



then a private first class, grabbed his attention by being at the front of an eight-mile road march with her squad leader, while attempting to motivate her peers.

“To be up there with her squad leader as a Pfc., trying to motivate other soldiers, I thought, was pretty impressive,” he said. “That’s where I first noticed her.”

“You had a female Pfc. leading the way for her peers. Then, I thought ‘Man, she’s special.’”

Campbell went on to say, “She has an attitude that, today, you don’t see in most 18 and 19-year olds. An attitude to win, an attitude to compete.”

Before Kosovo, Campbell said Pennington was part of a rear detachment in Germany and she worked very hard to get here.

“When I found out she was coming, I said, ‘I want that soldier to be in my platoon. I don’t care what I have to do, I don’t care who I have to give up, but I want that soldier in my platoon,’” he said. “I thought that her attitude would rub off on some of the soldiers we were having trouble with. She came in and motivated her peers.

“I think she stands above some of (the males), most of them. She leads from the front.”



**Above:** Spc. Rebecca Pennington closes her eyes as she tires during a treadmill run at the Fitness Center on Camp Monteith. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



**Left:** Spc. Rebecca Pennington of the 1st MP Company strains to continue pushing the dumb bells during a workout at Camp Monteiths gym. Pennington has a personal goal of performing her physical fitness test to at least the male minimum standard. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

# Unidentifiable Object Yields Training Opportunity

By Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson

On May 29 near the site where Observation Point Sapper is being dismantled, the soldiers of Alpha Company, 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineers, received training which most of them have never experienced.

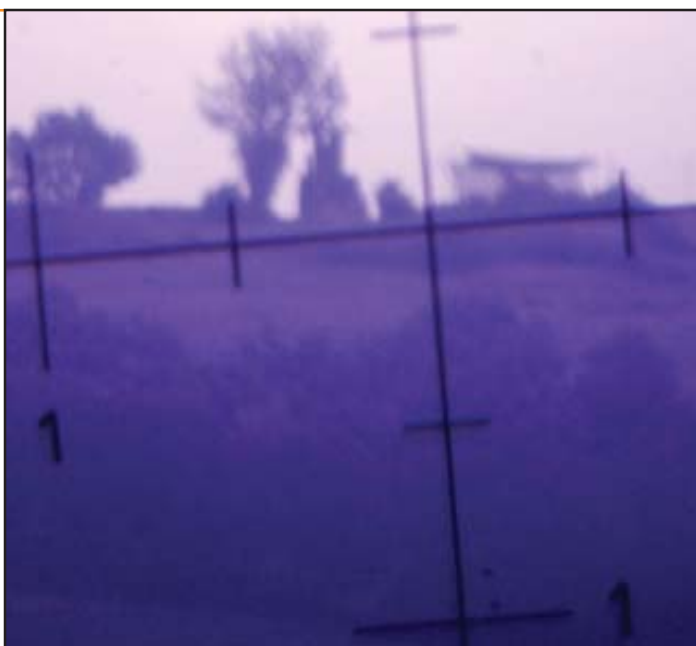
The Assault and Obstacle platoon set up an observation post near the Administrative Boundary Line. However, from this position, they were unable to identify an object on a near by ridge.

To help determine exactly what was seen, Pfc. Ryan J. Ferre, a driver for the engineers, radioed in a request for air observation support. Moments later, the distinct hum of two AH-64 Apache helicopters



Pfc. Ryan J. Ferre calls in AH-64 Apaches to perform reconnaissance on a suspected tank position on the Serbian side of the Administrative Boundary Line near OP Sapper. Ferre, a Pennsylvania native, now drives the "ACE", a track vehicle that moves earth much like a bull dozer. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.





Engineers from Alpha Company, 82nd Engineers, were unable to make out the object just right of the crosshairs in this view through their binoculars. They called in AH-64 Apache helicopters to assess the situation just across the Administrative Boundary Line near OP Sapper May 29. Photo by Spc. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

## What *YOU* Can do to Help Earth



- After meals in the north dining facility, always place your empty soda cans in the recycling bins next to the tray carts.
- Have your office collect empty cans.
- Instruct your cleaning staff not to throw away bags of empty cans.
- Drop off your cans in wooden bins labeled "Aluminum Cans Only" behind the north dining facility.

was heard on the otherwise quiet hilltop.

The helicopters maneuvered in the area for about 20 minutes taking pictures of the opposing ridgeline.

"(The Apaches) have the capabilities to reach out and actually zoom in on (the target) using their several different surveillance systems," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Gustafson. "So we're just going to get a verification of it."

The knowledge of how to use the assets available to engineers is mission essential.

"Usually, as engineers, we don't really get to call in for Apache support," said Sgt. Mathew Best, team leader for the A/O platoon. "It's a pretty good opportunity for our guys to learn."

Ferre, who called in the mission, said, "I feel any kind of training we get is a great opportunity to better ourselves. The more training we get, the better we will be in real life situations.

"I'd like to see more training like this," he continued.

During the event, three platoons from Alpha Co. gained experience calling in the helicopters to observe from their position.

With the mission complete, the Apaches flew over the hills of eastern Kosovo, and the engineers packed up their vehicles and rolled out of the area.

# Soldiers Strut Their Stuff at Muscle Beach

By Spc. Heidi Schaap

Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers pushed, pulled, pressed and tugged May 17 in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Muscle Beach competition at Camp Bondsteel.

Almost 50 soldiers from the United States and Sweden participated in the bench press, dip, sit-up, push-up, pull-up and tug-of-war events at the volleyball courts. Five-man teams were formed, and every team member competed in each event.

"This event was to foster unit cohesion and to test physical fitness," said Johnny Davis, the MWR Fitness Coordinator at Camp Bondsteel. "It was not just to see brute strength but endurance also."

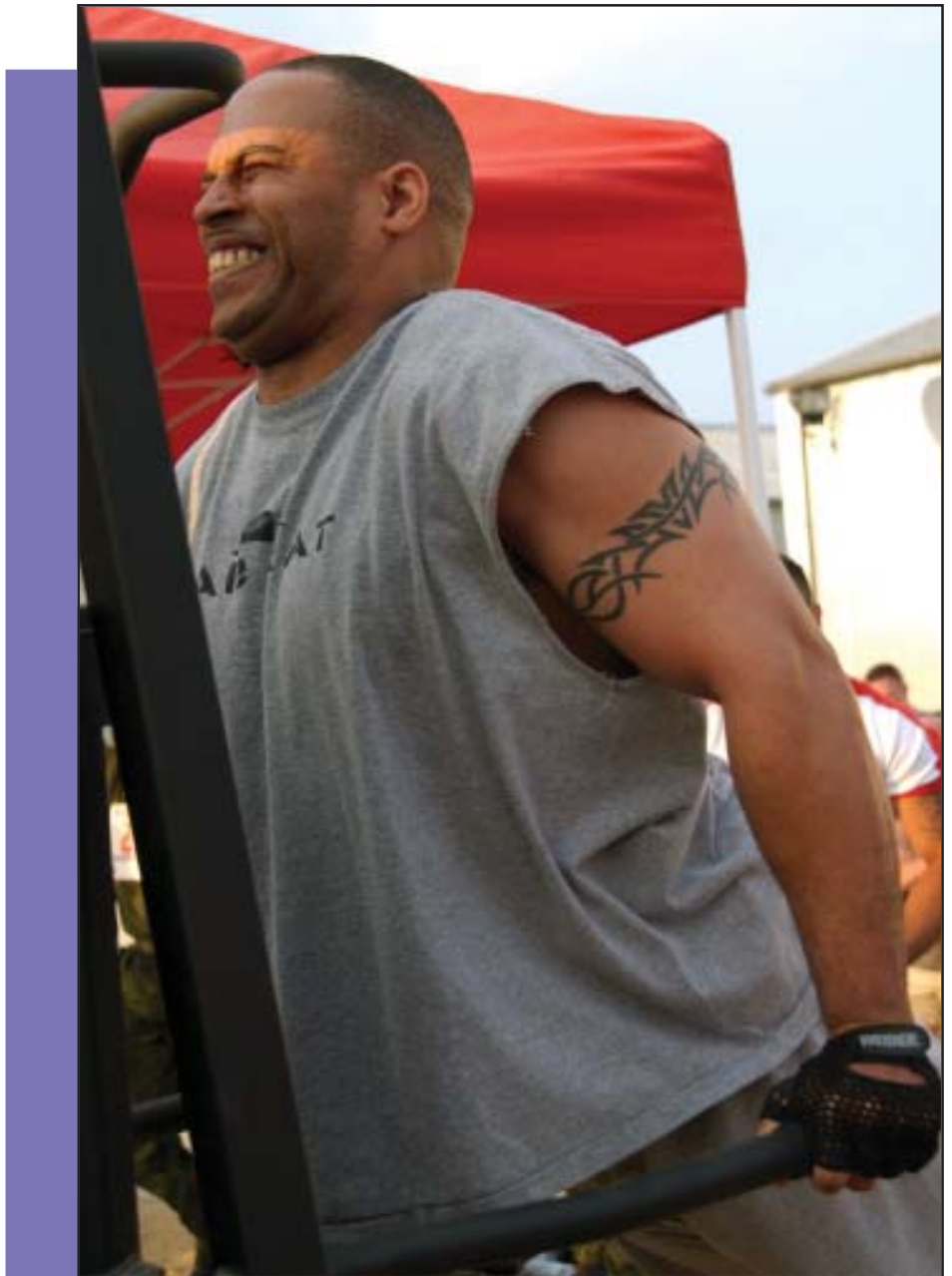
In the end, Team "Cobra" came in first and was awarded a gold cup trophy, and had their names engraved on a trophy displayed in the South Gym. Team "Shadow Recon" placed second and received a silver medal. Team "783" won third place and carried away a bronze medal. All participants received t-shirts.

Davis said the turnout for the event was good, and everyone seemed to enjoy the competition. "All the people around here know me," he said, "and they always support me in what I do."

Spc. Luis Castro, 783rd Military Police Battalion corrections specialist, and other MP's came out for the evening's event to test their physical ability and have fun.

"We were walking by and said, 'Why not?' Why not test ourselves against the whole camp? Besides," Castro added with a laugh, "we're PT studs!"

Davis said it's sometimes hard



Sgt. Stelvin J. Bell, recovery specialist with Charlie Co., 2-63 Armor Battalion, strains for another rep during the dip event in the MWR Muscle Beach competition on Camp Bondsteel May 17. Photo by 1st Sgt. Rob Heberling.

to recruit females for events involving weights. But he emphasized weightlifting and bodybuilding competitions are not just for male soldiers.

"(Females) need to know it's okay to have a strong body," Davis said. "Big muscles are not even what it's all about."

Females are not the only

participants encouraged to join in these events. Davis hopes that KFOR soldiers from other MNB(E) countries will come out for the fun.

"We'd like them to come in and take advantage," he said. "This stuff is not just for American soldiers, it's for everyone."

SEE *MUSCLE BEACH* ON PAGE 46



# Soldier on the Street

## What’s the best advice your father gave you?



**Torbjorn Olsson**

Rank: Pvt.  
Unit: Recon Team, Swedish Bat.

*"Be honest."*



**Robert McMillan**

Rank: Spc.  
Job: Automated Logistical Specialist  
Unit: Alpha Co., 201st FSB

*"Use your own intuition."*



**Wendy Linderborg**

Rank: Capt.  
Job: Intensive Care Unit Nurse  
Unit: Task Force Med Falcon  
*"He didn't actually give me verbal advice, but by the way he lived his life, he was an example to me in integrity, loyalty, and loving your family."*



**Aljay Landrum**

Rank: Sgt. 1st Class  
Unit: Delta Co. 2-1 Aviation

*"Work hard and earn it - you'll appreciate it more."*



**James Vanhorn**

Rank: Pfc.  
Job: Gunner  
Unit: 212 MP Co.

*"Keep your head down and your eye on the target."*



**Carroll Randall**

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer  
Unit: G-4, HHC, 3rd Brigade

*"No matter what you do, do your best at it."*

# Won by One

By Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold

**Ferizaj, KOSOVO** — Over four years ago, hundreds of warriors descended from the sky west of Ferizaj looking to end violence in their drop zone. Some accomplished their mission. However, an unknown number of these warriors have found refuge among the dense underbrush of the rugged yet pristine hillsides near Ferizaj.

The warriors spoken of are none other than unexploded cluster bomblets which still pose a threat to the local residents. While the cavalry has not galloped to the rescue, Staff Sgt. Edward Simon, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Mine Action Center of the Multi-National Brigade (East) and The Assistant Task Force Engineers, along with Handicap International, has.

Simon has the responsibility to identify, verify, and document all minefields and unexploded ordnance sites in the MNB(E) area. Simon also coordinates with the 702<sup>nd</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Handicap International for the marking, removal and destruction of the unexploded cluster bomblets.

**Staff Sgt. Edward Simon, NCOIC of the MNB(E) Mine Awareness Center, explains the process of how UXO's are cleared, providing a safe and secure environment. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**



**Staff Sgt. Edward Simon and Fred Coughlin examine the progress of clearing the hills around Ferizaj from life threatening UXO's. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.**

Handicap International is an international organization whose mission is the prevention of handicap-inflicting conditions in countries around the world.

Since April, Fred Coughlin, explosive ordnance disposal technical advisor with Handicap International, has helped train teams of the Kosovo Protection Corps to clear the Kosovo landscape of these deadly remnants of a less peaceful time in the region. The teams search .5 meter deep via electronic detector equipment.

When a UXO is found, team leaders are trained to detonate it in a safe and secure method. Simon then records the type of UXO found, its location, and when it was located. He also coordinates a medical evacuation, if necessary.

“We started in April and it should take 3 to 5 months to completely clear the area,” stated Coughlin.

Since the clearing process started one rocket propelled grenade and one cluster bomb bomblet have been found and detonated, said Simon.

The Mine Action Center is an essential element in making Kosovo a land free of fear from being injured or killed by a “warrior” from the past. The Mine Action Center and TATFE are committed to safe and secure movement for everyone within MNB(E)’s sector.



FROM PAGE 14

# MARTINEZ

think are right. But it's good to be noticed and know that that standard you try to reach is being seen by someone else."

By just being himself, Martinez has earned the respect of more than just the panel of Coggins Award judges. Those superior to him esteem him as well.

"We're very proud of him," said Maj. Karin Mallari, Deputy Command Judge Advocate for HHC, MNB(E). "It's a distinguished award and he is very deserving. He keeps us running here and is an out-

standing NCO."

Despite the praise he receives from those around him, Martinez, who will travel to the Army Judge Advocate General School in Charlottesville, Va. to receive the award July 24, doesn't take the credit for this honor.

"To be honest, at first I was embarrassed because I thought I would be boasting about myself. But I've come to realize it's not anything I did, but it's God who gave me these abilities. So I thank Him for this."

FROM PAGE 44

# MUSCLE BEACH

The evening on "Muscle Beach" is just one of many kinds of fitness events the MWR offers. There are aerobics and yoga classes several times a week, as well as personal instruction in

nutrition and the Body for Life program. Plus, there are many special events like Muscle Beach every month.

"I try to be really diverse so I can offer something for every-

body," Davis said.

"This event went really well," he added, "but I want soldiers to come and see all that's offered. And I think the next one will be even better."

FROM PAGE 16

# THE WALL

Mark Canales, EMS medic, Staff Sgt. Michael Price, intermediate care ward medic, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Glenn Davis, Orthopedics Technician.

Sgt. Israel Salinas of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineers and Sgt. Delfino Alarcon and Sgt. Fernando Piniero of the 2-63 Armor Battalion also contributed.

"This was sort of a last minute project and we were fortunate they could help us," said Garcia, but "it was worth the cause."

All 58,226 names inscribed on The Wall were printed off the Internet. Cardboard boxes contributed by AAFES Burger King manager Mike Battle formed the backing on which tens of thousands of the names were cut and

Soldiers of Task Force Med Falcon who helped build the replica of The Wall over Memorial Day weekend. Photo by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons.



pasted in alphabetical order to resemble the real monument. The remaining names, falling between 'M' and 'S,' were placed in a binder on display next to the recreated wall, which lined the hallways of the hospital.

Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe, Commanding General of MNB(E), came by and expressed his appre-

ciation to the troops for building the wall and gave each of them his coin.

"Our command and staff has been really great supporting us and getting the word out," said Rivas. "We owe it to (the veterans) to give them the remembrance they deserve and share it with our fellow soldiers."



A photograph of a man and a young boy sitting in the cab of a red tractor. The man, on the right, is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and is smiling broadly at the camera. The boy, on the left, is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with orange stripes on the sleeves and a camouflage baseball cap. He is holding the black steering wheel. The tractor's interior is red, and the windows show a bright, green, hilly landscape outside. The text "Scenes of Kosovo" is written in a large, elegant, black serif font across the middle of the image.

# *Scenes of Kosovo*

A father and his son share a ride on the family tractor on the new road to Kamena Glava June 5.

Photo by Spc. Heidi Schiap